

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY **Ecuador**

CONFIDENTIAL

14 October 1948

SUBJECT Opposition to Plaza Administration Weakening

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1. The organizational work of the opposition factions within the Liberal, Socialist and Communist Parties to the present administration continued unchecked until 23 September 1948. On that date the Socialist delegates, who had gone to various provinces to organize groups to support the opposition, ██████ that in general people were not receptive to revolutionary plans. A general air of contentment with the Plaza administration seemed to be in evidence. The exception to this was in Guayaquil, where, although a more favorable attitude to a revolutionary movement existed, the number of supporters was disappointing.
2. On 24 September 1948 Dr. Antonio Quevedo, an outstanding lawyer in Quito and a staunch supporter of Calo Plaza, reportedly discussed with the President the rising opposition to the administration. Quevedo allegedly convinced Plaza to make certain governmental positions available to his supporters in the Movimiento Civico Democratico Nacional (MCDN) in order to stem the tide of opposition. Plaza, as a result of this discussion or for other reasons, changed his tactics and various MCDN leaders were called in to discuss possible appointments for members of the Party.
3. This political gesture by Plaza caught the opposition by surprise and came at a time when the latter group had decided that the people were not ready for a revolution. As a result the opposition has weakened steadily to a point where it no longer constitutes a threat to the administration. Almost all the funds pledged to the opposition have now been withdrawn.
4. Another blow was rendered to the opposition when Plaza issued an invitation to all political parties, with the exception of the Communists, to confer with him on a program to strengthen the national welfare. The invitation received the following reaction in the various parties:
 - a. The Liberal Party: This Party, which was split by the MCDN before the presidential elections, remains disorganized and the invitation was not favorably received by the Party's Directorate. However, it was finally agreed that the Party would accept the invitation with the understanding that by so doing it was not to be construed that the Party would collaborate fully with the Plaza administration. Although the Liberals could not agree upon a program to be presented, it was decided to participate in the conferences on the basis of the subjects presented by Plaza.

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- b. The Socialist Party: Having experienced a similar situation in the elections as did the Liberals, the Socialists are also poorly organized and sharply divided upon the issue of accepting the President's invitation. The left wing of the Party was strongly in favor of declining the invitation and remaining with the opposition. However, after considerable discussion, it was finally agreed that the invitation should be accepted upon the condition that Plaza would accept the program drafted by the Socialists.
- c. The Conservative Party: This Party, having remained more intact than the other two Parties, readily accepted the invitation of the President and is currently preparing its program for presentation to Plaza.
- d. The MCDN: This group appears to be in the process of liquidation. The existence of the MCDN, which is made up of Liberals, Socialists and Conservatives, is regarded by Plaza as a hindrance to his plan for the formation of a truly national government in which all parties would participate. Once his debt to this group is paid, Plaza hopes to see its liquidation.

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